



Flathead City-County Board of Health

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FCEMS Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Held January 28, 2008 at 6:00 pm

2nd Floor Conference Room, Health Dept. – Earl Bennett Bldg.

Meeting Agenda

1. Finalize Advisory Committee number and composition of voting members, and replacement / rotation criteria.
2. Begin drafting a rule proposal for a system requirement to notify FCEMS of the level of responder's training for dispatch purposes.
3. Discuss the requirements for EMT Endorsements Recertification.
4. Begin discussion of a County-wide EMS provider Recruitment and Retention program and a media awareness campaign.
5. Hear request from West Valley Chief Rod Dresbach for a boundary description change with Kalispell Fire Dept. to improve, define, or simplify a mutual boundary.
6. Open topics or requests for policy and rule-making.

Attended by:

Joe Russell

Scott Alexander

Richard Briles

Randy Brodehl

Mary Granger

It is the mission of the Flathead City-County Health Department to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy through collaboration, education, promoting stewardship of our resources, and providing preventative health services to our community.

Bill Taylor
Eda Taylor
Craig Williams
Mark Peck
Wayne Miller
Doug Smith
Marty Boehm
Rob Bates
Gary Solomon
Joe Brenneman
Rod Dresbach
Jim Neil
Russ Sappington
Pete Wingert
Mike Rensmon

1. Meeting began with Pete Wingert passing out a letter describing the handover of 911 dispatch oversight from himself to Mark Peck of OES. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the dispatch of Bigfork and other “part-time” ALS capable services. General agreement was reached that the current dispatch criteria would remain in effect and also, the current direct communication of “(Bigfork Amb.)...responding at ALS level” would be used to help allocate ALS resources. Also, Bigfork will continue to notify 911 dispatch of an ALS personnel level availability in advance of that shift or time period. There was general agreement that Medical Control should authorize ALS response / stand-down.
2. Joe informed the group of a recent meeting addressing the possible need for a Flathead County “gap-filling” ALS transport organization. He is working on an RFQ to evaluate this situation. Joe Brenneman has been involved with this concept. Randy Brodehl asked that the ALS providers receive a copy of the RFQ.
3. Agenda item 2 was described as to intentions. Extended discussion ensued with the general consensus that the intention was definitely good and the implementation provided some challenges. General support for a periodic (quarterly) updated individual / unit licensure roster to be compiled and maintained by FCEMS.
4. Agenda item 3: Marty and Rob described their plan to begin defining EMT Endorsements Recertification Requirements (at the Basic level and above, ie needing medical director’s approval). There was debate about the legal issues regarding MT state licensure. General agreement that this was a good idea. This

was to be defined as a recommendation rather than a rule or regulation. Joe expressed a desire to have all of the relevant medical directors convene and define these recommendations. FCEMS is running a pilot training program Saturday, Feb 2 for endorsements refresher and recertification.

5. Agenda item 1: Joe began with introducing Nancy's note about consensus building vs voting. Discussion ensued regarding the relative importance / weight given to voting vs consensus (only). This ended up with a general agreement to run the advisory committee meetings with open, public input followed by restricted (voting members) discussion and then a vote if required. The debate continued over the number and composition of voting members on the EMS advisory committee. A concern was voiced about a potential, legal conflict with a voting member being from private enterprise. This was largely dismissed as a non-issue due the advisory nature of the committee. The final composition of the voting members was agreed to be:
 - 3 ALS services
 - 3 BLS transporting services
 - 3 BLS non-transporting services
 - 1 Off-line Medical Director from NVH
 - 1 Off-line Medical Director from KRMCThere will be a total of 11 voting members. All terms will be three years. To begin the cycle for each group of three members, one will be appointed for one year, one will be appointed for two years, and the third will be appointed for three years. Upon renewal / appointment, all terms will be for three years. This ensures that one voting member will be renewed or appointed every year.
6. Agenda item 5: Rod Dresbach described both specific and general problems with BLS response boundaries defying common sense regarding access and response time issues for the relevant service providers. Everyone agreed that these issues should be addressed and corrected. Mark Peck will have GIS generate response time maps to revisit this issue.
7. During the meeting, a patient short form pad along with a description page was delivered to one member of each first responder agency in attendance: Lakeside, Bigfork Ambulance, Evergreen, West Valley, and Three Rivers.